

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 A-01

OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 OCL-00 /080 W

-----041500Z 067728 /43

R 041400Z JAN 77

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4305

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0007

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: EPMG OUTPOST OVERRUN, SABOTAGE, ASSASSINATION AND THE
POL SITUATION

1. REPORTS HAVE REACHED ASMARA THAT THE EPMG OUTPOST AT HABRAN K'AKA (50 KM. NW OF ASMARA ON THE KEREN ROAD) WAS OVERRUN BY PLF INSURGENTS ON DEC. 27. THE INSURGENTS BEGAN THEIR ATTACK ON CHRISTMAS DAY, AND KEPT UP THEIR FIRE WITH SMALL ARMS AND ROCKETS FOR THREE DAYS UNTIL THE 100-MAN COMMANDO POLICE GARRISON SURRENDERED. SOME 40 TO 50 POLICE WERE TAKEN PRISONER, THE REMAINDER EITHER KILLED OR ESCAPED. THE EPMG WERE APPARENTLY UNABLE TO SUPPORT OR REINFORCE THE POST BECAUSE OF THEIR HEAVY COMMITMENT TO THE NACFA RELIEF FORCE STALLED ABOUT 20 KM. FROM KEREN. THE
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REBELS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE CAPTURED 8 TO 10 TRUCKLOADS OF SUPPLIES, INCLUDING FOOD AND AMMUNITION.

2. ON JAN. 3 INSURGENTS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE SABOTAGED THE BOILER AND PRINCIPAL ASSEMBLY LINE OF THE SOPRAL MEAT-PROCESSING AND CANNING PLANT. THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE IS NOT FULLY KNOWN AT THIS TIME. SOPRAL, WHICH EMPLOYS ABOUT 250 WORKERS, WAS APPARENTLY

TARGETTED BECAUSE, AS THE ONLY MEAT PACKING PLANT STILL OPERATING, IT HAS BEEN SUPPLYING ITS ENTIRE OUTPUT TO THE ETHIOPIAN ARMED FORCES. THAT SAME EVENING, AN ERITREAN WHO HAD BEEN HARRASSING CUSTOMERS AT VARIOUS GASOLINE STATIONS CLAIMING TO REPRESENT EPMG RATIONING AUTHORITIES, WAS SHOT TO DEATH BY GUNMEN THOUGHT TO BE REBEL ASSASSINS.

3. FURTHER INQUIRIES INTO THE ATTACK ON THE AGIP POL DEPOT AT MASSAWA CONFIRM THAT THE DAMAGE WAS MINIMAL. THE ASTOUNDING ASPECT OF THESE REPORTS, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE ROCKETS WHICH STRUCK THE DEPOT WERE FIRED FROM A SERIES OF LOW HILLS DESCRIBED AS BEING SOME 5 KM SW OF THE TARGET. THIS WOULD INDICATE THE USE OF A ROCKET OF THE 122MM TYPE. FURTHER INFORMATION INDICATES THAT, CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS REPORTS, THERE IS A LARGE SUPPLY OF ALL TYPES OF POL PRODUCTS IN MASSAWA. ONE SOURCE SAID THAT IF THE MASSAWA/ASMARA ROAD WAS OPENED, IT WOULD REQUIRE THREE MONTHS TO TRANSPORT ALL THE FUEL IN MASSAWA TO CUSTOMERS IN ASMARA. WAUCHOPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, PETROLEUM, ALLEGATIONS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, TERRORISTS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3670411
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EPMG OUTPOST OVERRUN, SABOTAGE, ASSASSINATION AND THE POL SITUATION
TAGS: PINS, ET, PLF
To: STATE ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/98d3e4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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